

CLAIMS

1. A collection of one or more microfluidic devices which together carry a plurality of microchannel structures (101a-h) each of which comprises a reaction microcavity (104a-h) in which there is a solid phase with an immobilized affinity ligand L, characterized in that
- 5
- (i) the plurality comprises two or more different sets of microchannel structures, and
 - (ii) the affinity ligand L is directed to the same counterpart (binder, B) independent of set, and
 - 10 (iii) the sets differ with respect to
 - a) the capacity for binder B per reaction microcavity and/or the capacity per unit volume of the solid phase in a reaction microcavity, and/or
 - b) the base matrix of the solid phase
- 15 between the sets but are equal within each set.
2. The collection according to claim 1, characterized in that the difference is with a factor ≥ 1.2 for at least one of the sets of the collection compared to the binding capacity for the set having the lowest binding capacity.
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3. The collection according to any of claims 1-2, characterized in that at least one of said devices comprises
- a) at least two of said sets of microchannel structures, and/or
 - b) only one set of microchannel structures, with the proviso that the collection
- 25 comprises two or more devices which are different with respect to the kind of sets they carry.
4. The collection according to any of claims 1-3 being intended for separately performing one or more affinity protocols that differ with respect to the reactants involved and/or the order of addition of the reactants and/or the concentration range in which the reactants are used, each of said different protocols utilizing an affinity reaction
- 30 between
- (i) a solute S, and

(ii) a conjugate comprising

(a) a binder B, and

(b) an affinity counterpart AC_S to the solute S,

characterized in that the affinity constant K_{L-B} for formation of the complex $L-B$

5 between the affinity ligand L and the binder B, i.e. $K_{L-B} = [L][B]/[L-B]$, is at most 10^3 times, such as at most 10^2 times, the corresponding affinity constant for streptavidin and biotin.

5. The collection according to claim 4, **characterized** in that L is selected amongst
10 biotin-binding compounds and streptavidin-binding compounds, respectively, or vice versa.

6. The collection of any of claims 4-5, **characterized** in that L has two or more binding
15 sites for B.

7. The collection according to any of claims 1-6, **characterized** in
(a) that each set on a device is grouped into one or more groups of fluidly equivalent
microchannel structures, and
(b) that each group is located to a particular subarea of the device.
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8. The collection according to any of claims 1-7, **characterized** in that said reaction
microcavity (104a-h) in at least one, preferably all, of said microchannel structures
(101a-h) in the upstream direction is connected to a volume-metering unit (106a-
h,108a-h).
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9. The collection according to claim 7, **characterized** in that said volume-metering unit
(106a-h,108a-h) is part of an inlet arrangement (102,103a-h) for liquid.

10. The collection according to each of claims 6-8, **characterized** in that said volume-
30 metering unit (106a-h,108a-h) within at least one of said group(s) (100) are part of a
distribution manifold for distributing liquid to the reaction microcavities (104a-h) of

the group, with the proviso that each of said at least one group (100) comprises two or more microchannel structures (101a-h).

11. The collection according to each of claims 7-10, **characterized** in that the inner wall
5 of each of said volume-metering units (106a-h,108a-h) have a sufficient hydrophilicity for said unit to filled by capillarity once an aqueous liquid have entered the unit, and b) a valve (109a-h,110a-h) at its outlet end, for instance a passive valve.
12. The collection according to any of claims 4-11, **characterized** in that at least one of
10 the solute S and its affinity counterpart AC_S, and/or at least one of the binder B and the ligand L comprise a structure selected amongst peptide structure including poly/oligo-peptide and protein structure, carbohydrate structure, lipid structure including steroid structure, nucleotide structure including nucleic acid structure, and polymeric structure.
13. The collection according to any of claims 1-12, **characterized** in that said solid phase
15 is in a dry state, preferably comprising in addition to the solid phase one or more bed-preserving agents.
14. The collection according to claim 13, **characterized** in that at least one of said one or
20 more bed-preserving agents is a microcavity adherence agent.